



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough Branch

Reg Charity 219279

In Touch

Issue 141

June 2010

The monthly newsletter (founded 1996) of the Market Harborough Branch of the Royal British Legion.

**Next
Monthly Branch
Meeting
Wednesday
July 14th**

Function Room,
Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd,
Market Harborough
7-30pm

Band's Mixed Success

The ATC band had mixed fortunes at the Wing Band Competition held at the end of April. The Fanfare and Percussion both won their sections and the band was joint first in the uniform inspection.

However they were runners up in the Full Band, arguably the main event of the day, losing by 6 points, to local rivals 5F (Northampton).

Adverts

You will see adverts for the Angel Hotel and Sainsbury's. Both companies have made donations which together cover half this years cost of *In Touch*. If you know of companies who want to support the Branch by advertising in the Newsletter please contact the editor.



ANGEL

HOTEL & RESTAURANT

37 High St, Market Harborough
LE16 7AF. Tel 01858 462702

- * A family owned hotel with 28 en-suite rooms.
- *Function room for private parties
- *Family restaurant serving evening meals and traditional Sunday lunch
 - * afternoon teas (Apr to Sept)
- * Lounge bar - a great place to enjoy a drink with friends

Waiting to Welcome You

RBL Active in Spain

Nerja Residents Day attracted 37 associations including The Royal British Legion. Nick Ball, Chairman of the Nerja Branch commented 'this is our 7th year at Foreigner's Day. Previously our stand has merely been an information point but this year we ran a tombola - all prizes donated by businesses and individuals and made a profit of 295 Euros - a great way to launch 2010 Poppy Appeal. Thanks to John Liddell for passing on this information from the SUR newspaper.

StartHere

A new information service has been launched providing details of over 170 organisations and services providing support to the serving and ex-Service community. Harvey Tilley Head of Community Services said "often the key to solving a problem is finding the right information and organisation to help. StartHere provides an up to date service that helps individuals find the relevant information simply, quickly and effectively. It can be accessed via the Legions website at

www.britishlegion.org.uk

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and who may benefit from, the Royal British Legion welfare services please contact

Betty Ramsey
01858 434923

Operation Dynamo

The dates of 27 May to 4 June 1940 will be etched in the annals of British history as the period that an armada of little ships saved an army. The image is conjured up of hundreds of small boats ferrying soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk back to England. The facts were slightly different, but not that it detracts from the role of the small boats armada. Official figures show only some 6000 men being returned to England by small boats but in reality some 100,000 soldiers were ferried



off the beaches by these small boats to the larger ships lying off shore. It is not known how many small boats took part but more than 200 are known to have been sunk as well as 6 Royal Navy and 3 French Navy destroyers, two personnel ships and several large merchant navy vessels.

The western route across the Channel was the shortest, at 39 sea miles, but was vulnerable to attack from gun batteries at Calais and from 28 May the longer eastern

route, at 87 sea miles had to be used. A final route of 55 sea miles was created by clearing a gap in the minefield.

The last vessel to leave Dunkirk was the old destroyer *Shikari*, leaving at 3.40am on 4 June, carrying 383 troops. Operation Dynamo ended at 2.23pm.

The BEF lost 68,111 killed, wounded and prisoner, 2472 guns, 63,879 vehicles, 20548 motorcycles and 500,000 tons of stores and ammunition during the evacuation. The number of prisoners captured is not certain – German sources suggest that 80,000 men were captured around Dunkirk.

The RAF were much criticised for 'abandoning' the men on the beaches to the Luftwaffe attacks. Between 26 May and 4 June the RAF flew 4,822 sorties over Dunkirk, losing over 100 aircraft in the fighting. Much of the air fighting took place away from the beaches as the RAF tried to break up German raids before they dropped their bombs and patrolled the sea lanes used for the evacuation.

The initial expectations were that some 45,000 men would be rescued over two days, in reality over 338,000 men were evacuated in this massive operation which led Winston Churchill saying to Parliament on 4 June

"We must be very careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory. Wars are not won by evacuation.... We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight in the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air; we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender". There is no doubt that the 'victory' at Dunkirk secured Britain's continued involvement in WW2.



Armed Forces Day

The event is an annual opportunity to show your support for the men and women who make up our armed forces community; from currently serving troops to service families and from veterans to cadets.

This year it will be held in Welland Park on Sunday July 4th starting at 10 am.

Following the opening parade the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Andrew Grainger will formally open the event. It is hoped that there will be display stands from the police, St John's, Poppy Calls, RAFA, RNA, Army Cadet Force and the fire brigade. plus others.

The band of 1084 ATC Squadron will display during the day and the event will be supported by HFM .

Harborough Band is also to play during the day.

This is not a fund raising event but donations will be received for Help the Heroes and Support our Soldiers. So pop along with your friends and show your support for the armed forces community.

Cadet 150 Parade

2010 celebrates the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Cadet Corps which was formed to help bolster the country's defence numbers following heavy losses in the Crimean War.

131,000 cadets have taken part in events across the country and overseas supported by the 25,000 adult volunteers without whose support the cadet forces couldn't operate.

As part of the anniversary celebra-

today's 4 cadet forces, Sea Cadets, Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force each led by their own band will proudly march down the Mall and then to a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace. The event takes place on July 6th and the parade starts at noon.

The Life That I Have

The life that I have Is all that I have
And the life that I have Is yours

The love that I have of the life that I
have
Is yours and yours and yours

A sleep I shall have a rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause

For the peace of my years in the long
green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.

Many will know this poem which came to public attention in the 1958 film 'Carve Her Name With Pride' about the WW2 SOE Agent Violette Szabo (23) who was captured, tortured and killed by the Germans. Leo Marks, in charge of codes, realised well known poems used as a basis for codes could be traced to the original works so wrote the poem giving it to Violette in March 1944. There is much controversy as to authorship and if it was given to Violette. She never used the code as she was captured before contacting Britain. In his 1998 autobiography Marks said he wrote it on Christmas Eve 1943 in memory of his girlfriend Ruth who died in a plane crash. Whatever the truth an iconic poem giving comfort to many at times of grief.

News from the Past

Editors Note

The article below is taken from News-letter number 8, dated I believe in June 1997.

The Dedication mentioned is that of the Harborough Branch Standard. I wonder if the Conn Weissenberger Post recall this Twinning, I can't see any mention of it on their web site. Perhaps it would be interesting to re-establish contact or should we 'twin' with any other branches.?

Any views to the editor.

The Twinning Ceremony

At a simple Ceremony during the Reception after the Dedication, a Joint Declaration was signed by which Market Harborough Branch of The Royal British Legion and the Conn Weissenberger Post 587, of the American Legion in Toledo, Ohio, became "Sister Units" "in honour, respect and comradeship". It was indeed fortunate that a member of the Toledo Post would be in the UK on 8th June, and could attend the Dedication and could be their representative at the Twinning Ceremony.

Armed Forces Discount Scheme

Veterans and their families can benefit from discounts offered by over 1,100 companies via a free MOD Discount Scheme.

Discounts and deals are available from a wide range of providers of everything from legal services to holidays.

Register for free at

www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk

If My Body were a Car

A poem to the temple which is our body sent in by Patricia Walker

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking
About trading it in for a newer model.
I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish,
And my paint job is getting a little dull.
But that is not the worst of it,
My headlights are out of focus, and it is hard to see things up close.

My traction is not a graceful as it once was
I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of winter.

My white walls are stained with varicose veins
It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed
My fuel burns inefficiently

But here's the worst of it -
Almost every time I sneeze or cough or laugh, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

This Month in 1917

As resentment against the Germans grew during WW1 on 19th June 1917 George V ordered the British Royal family to stop using the Germanic sounding name of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and adopt the name Royal House of Windsor.

Sainsbury's

Thank you for the generous donation towards the costs of *In Touch*.

Philosophy Class

On the first day of class the philosophy professor stood behind a table with a large, empty mayonnaise jar, a box of golf balls, a box of pebbles, and a box of sand. Wordlessly, he picked up the very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls and asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up the pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between golf balls.

He asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up the box of sand and poured it into the jar. The sand filled up the rest of the space..

He asked once more if the jar was full. The students replied unanimously "yes."

The professor produced two glasses of wine and poured them into the jar,. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to see that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things-- your family, your children, your health, your friends, --things that if only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles are other things that matter like your job, and your house. The sand is everything else--the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small

stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house and cut the lawn.

"Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the wine represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a glass of wine or two with a friend"

Branch Web Site

Tom Ashmore has started planning a new branch web site using the new Legion website template.

The template offers a free web site to a standard style reflecting the main Legion website.

This will maintain the strong brand and identity of the Legion but enables branches to add their own content.

Watch for announcements as to when the web site goes live. The address will be www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough.

In Memoriam

Jackie Garside, wife of Jack, passed away peacefully on 1 May . aged 65.

Stan Snow passed away peacefully on 8th May aged 89.

Tigers at Dunkirk Book Review

This 160 page hardback book is a vivid reconstruction of the British army's defeat in the disastrous 1940 France and Flanders campaign. The book centres on the experiences of the soldiers of the 2/5 Leicesters - the 'Tigers'. Formed in 1938 the battalion joined the BEF in April 1940 where they were to undertake further training and labouring duties. Despite its lack of training the battalion was sent into the line on 25 May to stem the German advance. Outgunned, dive-bombed and then attacked by infantry, most were killed or captured, only B Company and a few stragglers escaped and headed for Dunkirk. These soldiers typified the British battalions that faced the blitzkrieg and the might of Hitler's soldiers and tanks. If it hadn't been for the bravery of the rearguard actions fought by the soldiers and some decisions by the German army the evacuation from Dunkirk might have had a different result affecting the whole course of the war.

Puzzle Corner

Lucy wrote about her holidays in a school essay. Hidden in it are 4 cities she visited. Can you find them?

There was a go-slow at the airport, so we had time to buy a fluffy purple nylon donkey; Emma'd ridden the real thing on the beach. When we got back, Mum said she'd pop a risotto in the oven.



Tuesday July 6

**Reservation to
Glenys Hocking-Davies
01858 467835
before 29 June**

Cancellations on the day to Glenys before 11 am. If Glenys is not available phone the Angel 01858 462702 before 11am or the meal will be charged for.

Menu

*Crispy Battered Haddock, Chips,
Peas and pot of Tartare Sauce*

*Home cooked Ham on a bed of
Mashed Potatoes, Peas and
Parsley Sauce*

*Cold Salmon Salad, New
Potatoes and Mayonnaise*

*Chocolate Sponge Pudding with
Chocolate Sauce*

*"Iced" Coconut Gateaux with
Strawberry Ice Cream*

*Fresh Fruit Salad with Mini Jug of
Cream*

coffee & mints

Only £7

Meet in the bar at noon

What's Going On?

- 19 Jun** RNA Cheese & Wine
7 to 9-30pm
36 Lubenham Hill, £5
includes two glasses
of wine.
- 26 Jun** Armed Forces Day -
Leicester 11am -
service and parade.
Contact Betty for more
Details.
- 4 Jul** Armed Forces Day.
Welland Park. 10 to 2.
see article on page 4
- 6 Jul** Lunch at the Angel.
Meet noon in the bar.
- 18 Jul** 'Ramsay Ramblers'
again take on the
Poppy Walk
Challenge in London.
All money raised goes
to the Branch Poppy
Appeal. Please
sponsor Betty and
family.
- 18 Sep** Concert by Massed
Bands of Household
Division at the Albert
Hall, Tickets £11 - £40

Puzzle Corner—Answer

go-slow nylon donkey
Emma'd ridden pop a risotto

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Branch.*

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Next Committee Meeting 8 Jul

And Finally

Black and White

The fur of polar bears is not white
but clear and their skin is black.
Their hair is actually hollow and
acts like fibre optics directing
sunlight to warm their skin.